

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS EIGHTEENTH PLENARY

TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NUMBER FIFTY-SEVEN

1. FOLLOWING IS AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S STATEMENT GIVEN AT EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MARCH 21:

BEGIN TEXT. MR. MINISTER: THE AMERICAN SIDE HAS NOW ENJOYED YOUR HOSPITALITY FOR SIX WEEKS, AND WE EXTEND OUT GRATITUDE TO YOU, THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, AND THE ENTIRE SOVIET DELEGATION.

YOU HAVE BEEN GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME AND COURTESIES.

OUR WORK TOGETHER HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND MARKED BY FRANKNESS AND GOOD HUMOR.

AS WE SEE THE STATE OF OUR WORK, A SUBSTANTIAL NARROWING OF EARLY DIFFERENCES AND UNCERTAINTIES HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

AFTER THE RECESS WHICH WILL FOLLOW TODAY'S MEETING, WE WILL RESUME OUR WORK ON THE BASIS OF A SUBSTANTIAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE VIEWS OF THE TWO SIDES AND WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES HAVING REACHED AN ADVANCED STATE OF DEVELOPMENT.

OUR REMAINING DIFFERENCES ARE TECHNICALLY COMPLEX AND THEY INVOLVE MATTERS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT ANOTHER WORKING RECESS WILL BE OF VALUE IN FURTHERING OUR WORK.

AS WE SEE IT, THE RECESS SHOULD BE RELATIVELY BRIEF. THE

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SUBJECTS IN NEED OF WORK SEEM REASONABLY CLEAR; AND, IN MOST

CASES, THE NATURE OF THE HOMEWORK TO BE DONE IS WELL UNDERSTOOD.

THEREFORE, THE US SIDE IS HOPEFUL THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS CAN RESUME IN ABOUT A MONTH AND BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON THE BASIS OF CONCRETE PROPOSALS MADE BY BOTH SIDES ON ALL REMAINING ISSUES.

WE FULLY REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE RELEVANT LIMITATIONS ON YIELDS. IN ORDER TO GO FURTHER IN OUR PROPOSALS CONCERNING YIELD LEVELS WE NEEDED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR VIEWS ON OTHER PARAMETERS. YOUR PRESENTATIONS IN THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS HAVE HELPED US DEVELOP THAT UNDERSTANDING, AND WE SHALL DEVELOP OUR PROPOSALS ON YIELD LEVELS IN GREATER DETAIL.

WE HAVE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A LIMIT ON THE MAXIMUM YIELD OF UNRESOLVABLE CONTAINED PNES, ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL A DIFFERENCE OF 50 KILOTONS BETWEEN THE LIMITS PROPOSED BY THE TWO SIDES. THIS REMAINING DIFFERENCE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, DERIVES MAINLY FROM DIFFERING VIEWS OF VERIFICATION CRITERIA.

ONE OF THE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS ON WHICH THE US SIDE WILL BE DOING HOMEWORK DURING THE RECESS IS THAT OF CONTAINED GROUP PNES WITH AGGREGATE YIELDS LARGER THAN THE AGREED MAXIMUM FOR UNRESOLVABLE CONTAINED PNES. WE ANTICIPATE, OF COURSE, THAT YOU WILL PRESENT YOUR VIEWS AND PROPOSALS ON THIS CLASS OF PNES IN DETAIL.

ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE. FURTHER, IT NOW APPEARS THAT AGREEMENT ON MANY OF THE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ITEMS CAN TAKE FORM THAT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR GENERAL APPLICATION TO BOTH CONTAINED AND EXCAVATION PNES. IF WE CAN, INDEED, DO THIS IT WOULD BE VERY DESIRABLE AS A STEP TOWARD AN AGREEMENT THAT COULD BE SIMPLE AND BRIEF BUT WITH WIDE APPLICABILITY.

I AM GOPEFUL THAT WE CAN FIND PRACTICAL WAYS TO DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF VERIFICATION IN BRIEF AND SIMPLE TERMS.

IT IS MY IMPRESSION, BROUGHT HOME WITH PARTICULAR FORCE BY THE DISCUSSION IN PLENARY LAST WEDNESDAY, THAT THERE MAY WELL BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US THAT ARE ONLY SEMANTIC IN CHARACTER AND NOT REAL DIFFERENCES AT ALL. WITH CONTINUED GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, SUCH ILLUSORY DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE READILY EXPOSED AND RESOLVED AS WE CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS.

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IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT COOPERATION. WE HAVE ENJOYED YOUR VERY EVIDENT COOPERATION DURING THE LAST SIX WEEKS, AND HAVE TRIED TO ACTIVELY COOPERATE ALSO. WITHOUT SUCH COOPERATION OUR WORK COULD HARDLY HAVE MOVED FORWARD. ON THE MORE POINTED MATTER OF COOPERATION IN THE PNE FIELD, I AM AUTHORIZED ONLY TO MAKE A VERY SHORT STATEMENT BUT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ONE: WE DO NOT EXCLUDE COOPERATION -- WE ONLY WISH TO PLACE FIRST THE

ESSENTIAL THINGS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE III OF THE
TREATY OF JULY 1974.

IN THINKING OF WHAT TO SAY IN THIS MEETING TODAY, I HAVE
TRIED TO PICTURE OUR PRESENT SITUATION RELATIVE TO THAT OF
FEBRUARY 10; AND I AM STRUCK BY HOW FAR WE HAVE COME. WHEN
IMMERSED IN THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK OF NEGOTIATIONS, WE SEEM TO
SEE ONLY NEVER-ENDING PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, LOOKING BACK
OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS, AND FURTHER BACK TO OCTOBER 7 ,
1974, IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT OUR COMPLEX TASK IS
PROGRESSING WELL.

THANK YOU.
STOESSEL

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